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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

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TOPIC Military Information from Stendal

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July 30

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 27 June 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 3

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. At 7 p.m. on 21 May 1951, 14 trucks were loaded with pontoons, beams and boards at the ration supply depot at the eastern railroad station of Stendal (M 53/Y 85). The trucks had come from the direction of the city and departed toward Arneburg (M 53/Y 86). The trucks, each occupied by 6 to 8 men with black-bordered red epaulets, [redacted]

[redacted] about 400 troops have been bivouacking and engaged in exercises on the Elbe River between Arneburg and Dalchau since 20 May. (1)

2. Ammunition was transferred at the freight station from a boxcar into trucks

[redacted] the ammunition came from Pfaffendorf and was consigned to [redacted] in Stendal. At the same time, four JS-3 tanks were unloaded at the end ramp and were filled with gasoline [redacted]

3. On 22 May, soldiers were seen cleaning six light AT guns and about 30 trucks

in the yard of the Tauntzien Kaserne. A convoy of 25 trucks [redacted] entered the barracks installation at 9 p.m. on 23 May, coming from the direction of Magdeburg. Each truck was occupied by about 25 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Two field kitchens, 4 light AT guns and 6 heavy mortars were observed with the convoy.

4. Troops drilling at squad level were seen in the yard of the Hindenburg Kaserne on 23 May. Gate guards wore black-bordered red epaulets and patrols around the billeting area wore red-bordered black epaulets [redacted]

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5. About 12 tanks and from 12 to 15 artillery pieces were seen in front of the garages of the Albrecht der Baer Kaserne on 24 May. [redacted]

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[redacted] The guards at the gates were tank troopers, but patrol duty was performed by artillerymen. No training activity was seen. [redacted]

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[redacted] All but two buildings of the Hindenburg Kaserne were lighted in the evenings of 25 May and 2 June. (2)

6. On 26 May, 8 rocket launchers, 12 artillery pieces, and 20 to 25 trucks were lined up on the edge of the woods at Borstel airfield. Trucks [redacted] were seen driving toward the ammunition dump. (3)

7. From 400 to 500 troops with 40 pontoons, 4 assault boats, 15 pneumatic rafts, 4 amphibious cars, and 30 trucks [redacted] were seen departing north of Arneburg, probably in the direction of Stendal, on 27 May. Most of the troops wore black-bordered red epaulets and a few red-bordered black epaulets. (1)

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8. On 4 May, about 20 limbers of artillery pieces were unloaded at the Stendal freight yard and hauled off [redacted]

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9. On 6 May, troops with field equipment and red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia arrived at the Stendal railroad station on trucks [redacted]

10. [redacted] two trains with artillery troops and one train with motor vehicles had passed through the Stendal railroad station on 9 May, proceeding toward Gardelegen. A train which passed through Stendal at 7:30 p.m. on that day, coming from the direction of Berlin and proceeding toward Oebisfelde, carried six guns [redacted] among other material.

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11. A train carrying troops on four boxcars, 6 artillery pieces, and an undetermined number of trucks [redacted] moving from the direction of Berlin toward Gardelegen at about 6 p.m. on 10 May.

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12. [redacted] about 35 tanks were unloaded at the Stendal freight yard and departed toward the city on 16 May. (2) [redacted] two troop trains loaded with heavy guns and trucks had passed through the railroad station on the same day, heading westward.

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13. [redacted] two trains loaded with heavy artillery pieces had moved toward Gardelegen on 17 May. [redacted] a train with 10 heavy artillery pieces and an undetermined number of trucks [redacted] on the same day. (4)

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14. [redacted] three troop trains carrying artillery pieces and numerous trucks had passed through the Stendal railroad station on 19 May. (5)

15. A column of 10 half-track vehicles, each carrying 8 soldiers and towing an artillery piece, and trucks [redacted] arriving from the direction of Gardelegen at 6:30 a.m. on 10 May. Another column of 8 tractors, each carrying 10 soldiers and towing a gun of 120-mm to 155 mm, [redacted]

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Comments.

- (1) The statement that the troops involved in the engineer exercise, held about 18 km northeast of Stendal from 21 to 27 May 1951, wore black-bordered red epaulets, indicates that the troops cannot belong to the 890th Indep Engr Bn of the LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps, whereas the vehicles and equipment observed with the troops most probably belong to the battalion. It is possible that an infantry company of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div, furnished with equipment by the engineer battalion, may have conducted a river-crossing exercise. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] the 890th Indep Engr Bn has been carried at the Bittkau engineer training site since the end of April 1951. [redacted] 25X1
- (2) [redacted] troops from Stendal started returning from Letzling Heath by road and rail on 10 May 1951. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] troops returned to Stendal at the end of May 1951 and that the barracks installations in Stendal were occupied almost to capacity by the beginning of June 1951. The status of the Fliegerhorst Kaserne, Borstel, is unknown.
- (3) [redacted] six rocket launchers coming from the direction of Borstel on 18 May 1951. [redacted]. Since it is no longer believed that a motorized rifle division has a rocket launcher component, it is possible that the Fliegerhorst Kaserne, Borstel, quarters a rocket launcher unit of the LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps.
- (4) The movement of units from Stendal, [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] still continued throughout May 1951, [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] the troops from Stendal were probably rotated to Letzling Heath for short training cycles. [redacted]. It appears that the troops moving after 5 May 1951, were primarily artillery troops. 25X1
- (5) [redacted] not less than nine troop trains passed through the Stendal railroad station en route to Letzling Heath between 9 and 19 May 1951. The number of trains cannot be determined exactly, since some of the trains [redacted] 25X1
- may have been identical. The trains [redacted] may have been those which, [redacted] carried components of the 18th Mecz Div from Wittstock and elements of the 10th Gds Tank Div. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] the train carried components of the unidentified artillery division from Potsdam. 25X1
- [redacted] which went to Altengrabow in April 1951, it is believed that the train came from Altengrabow. All trains mentioned in the present report were carrying artillery units.

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